
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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HOONAH SOUND HERRING SPAWN ON KELP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that participants in the 2012 Hoonah Sound spawn on kelp (SOK) fishery will be allowed to begin removing pound webbing at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 21, 2012. Additionally, **all pounds and associated equipment, including anchors, must be completely removed** from the waters of Section 13-C by 12:00 noon, Friday, June 10, 2012 and must remain out through March 1, 2013 [5 AAC 27.185(w)].

After the release of herring from a closed pound, the pound and webbing must remain in its original configuration with adequate water circulation on all sides for at least four weeks to optimize hatching success [5 AAC 27.185(t)]. Spawning in Hoonah Sound occurred from April 20 to April 23 and peaked on April 21, which allows permit holders to begin removing pound webbing on May 21.

To date 4.9 nautical miles of herring spawn has been mapped from aerial and skiff surveys, and major spawning is believed to be over.

Effort during the 2012 fishery was 91 permit holders present on the grounds with 74 pounds receiving fish. Actual harvest information will not be available for several weeks; however, preliminary reports indicate this year's harvest will be substantially less than the 390,000 pounds harvested in 2011.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0912.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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